



The Effect of Hormonal Contraception on Interpersonal Attraction in Cis-Women

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Introduction

- This study will examine the influence of hormonal contraception on interpersonal attraction
- Interpersonal attraction encompass social and physiological processes that promote the development of various relationships (e.g., friendships and dating relationships)
- Reciprocity is an important demonstration of interpersonal attraction
 - Reciprocity states that individuals like those who they believe like them
- A 2 (hormonal contraception: user or non-user) x 2 (reciprocity: liking or control) design will be used

Hormonal Contraception Users.

- Hormonal contraception (e.g., birth control pill) are birth control options that contain estrogen and/or progesterone systematically administered into the body through various routes
- Women who use hormonal contraception demonstrate decreased emotion recognition especially regarding negative information or events
 - Effective emotion recognition is important within attraction
- Insensitivity toward emotional recognition may alter how women who use hormonal contraception navigate relationships

Hormonal Contraception Non-Users.

- Hormonal contraception non-users will be naturally cycling women in their follicular phase
 - The follicular phase occurs between the first day of the menstrual cycle and ovulation
- Hormone levels during the follicular phase are analogous to hormone levels in women who use hormonal contraception

Current Study.

- This study measures attraction after participants are given false evaluative feedback in a person-perception task

Introduction

Current Study.

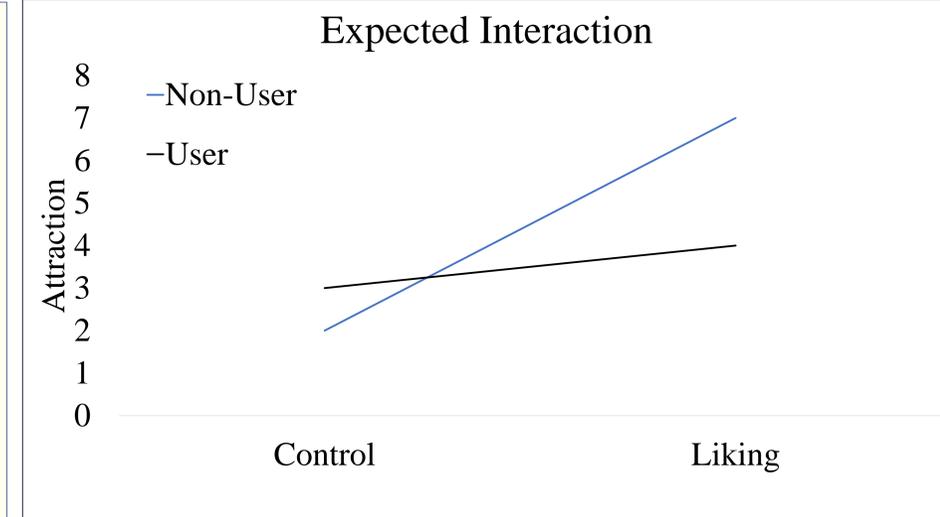
- False Feedback will either express liking or control
 - Participants will be randomly assigned to view one of the two feedback scrips
 - Participants will be led to believe that the feedback is in response to study tasks
- Menstrual cycle will be estimated through self-report and women in their follicular phase will be compared with women using hormonal contraception
- The dependent variable is attraction

Method

- Participants (estimated $n = 132$ cis-women) will be randomly allocated to liking or control condition in this two-part study through Amazon M*Turk
- Part I, participants will be asked:
 - Information about either their menstrual cycle or birth control
 - Non self-disclosing question, "What is your usual morning routine?"
- Part II, participants will be asked:
 - Feedback (liking or control) randomly given to participants
 - Questionnaires administered to assess attraction and emotion recognition
 - Selected measures include:
 - Measure of Behavioral Attraction (Singh et al., 2009) assesses how much the participant would like to be physically close to a target person
 - Measure of Affective Attraction (Montoya & Insko, 2008) measures the subjective experience of attraction
 - Modified Schutte Emotional Intelligence Scale (Schutte et al., 1998) will assess how well participants recognize their own emotions

Hypotheses & Expected Results

- Participants in the liking condition will report greater attraction than participants in the control condition
- Hormonal contraception use (non-user or hormonal contraception user) will moderate the relation between reciprocity and attraction such that naturally cycling women will report greater attraction when reciprocity is present.
- Hormonal contraception non-users will report higher emotional recognition than women using hormonal contraception



Implications & Future Directions

- Studies have focused on physical attractiveness preference differences between naturally cycling women and women who use hormonal contraception. More study is necessary into other preference manifestations, a void this study hopes to fill
- Within studies, women using hormonal contraception are either excluded or included with naturally cycling women. This study will help to determine if this is the best research protocol
- Knowing the extent of insensitivity toward negative information and events may be beneficial regarding future investigations with intimate partner violence

References available on request (beasleynl@udayton.edu)